US ERA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Stephen H. Schneider*

Melvin and Joan Lane Professor for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies,
Professor, Department of Biological Sciences
Senior fellow, Woods Institute for the Environment
Stanford University

Mediarolgy: Communicating the seriousness of global warming without omitting the uncertainties

Workshop on the Impacts of Climate Change on Air Quality in the Pacific Southwest

The Federal Building at 7th & Mission Streets

San Francisco

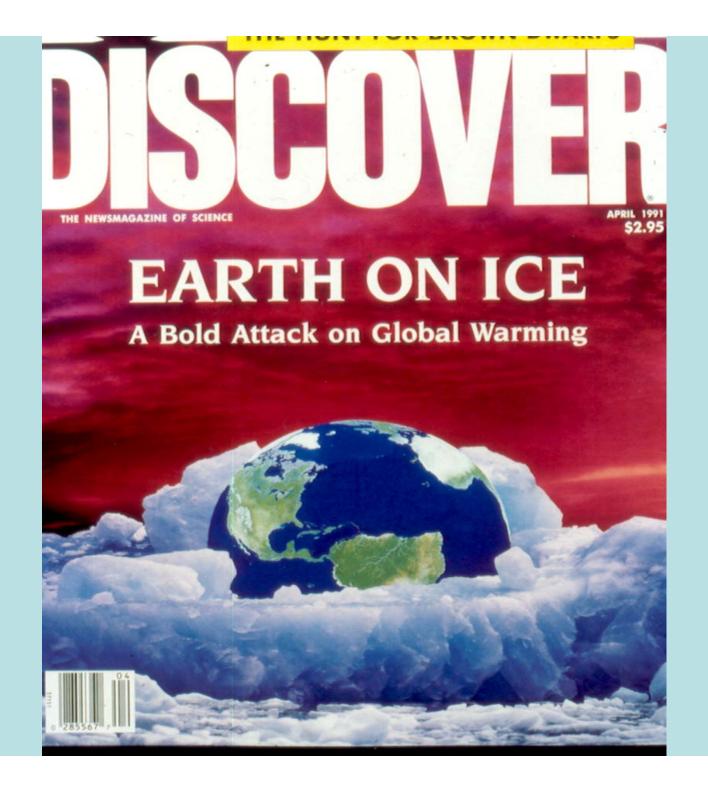
October 11, 2007

12:30pm -1:10pm

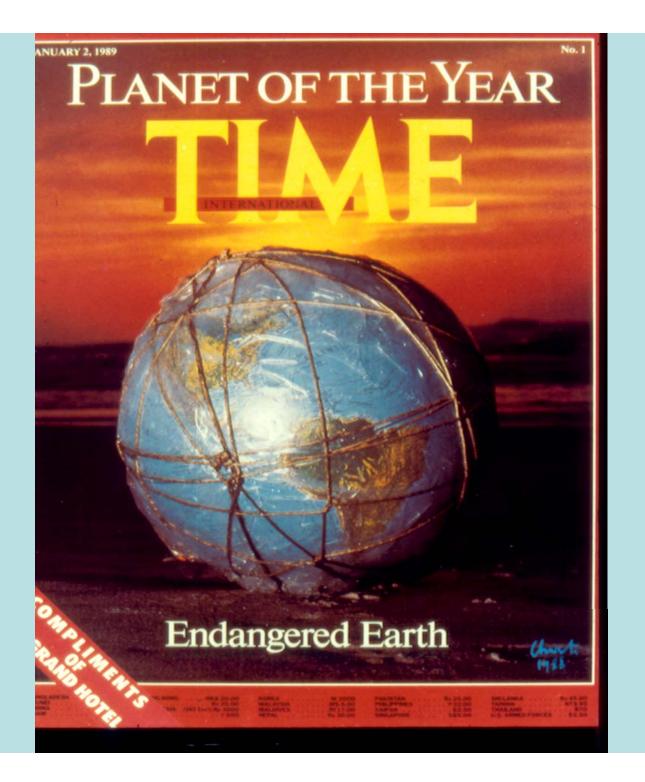
*[Website for more info: www.climatechange.net.]



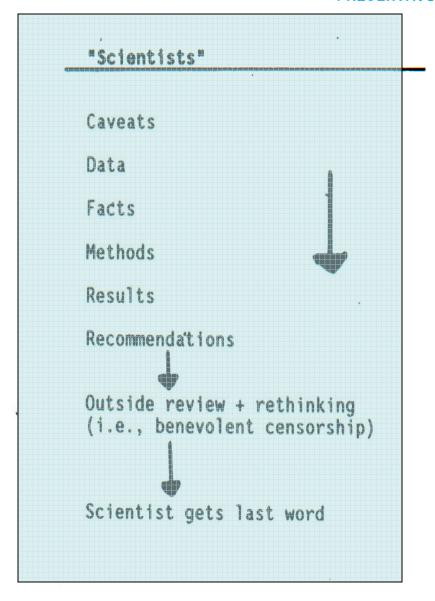




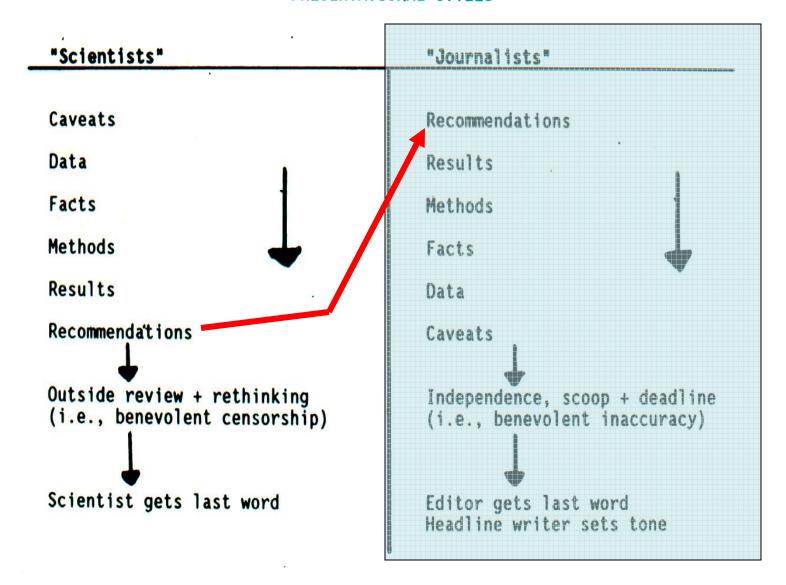




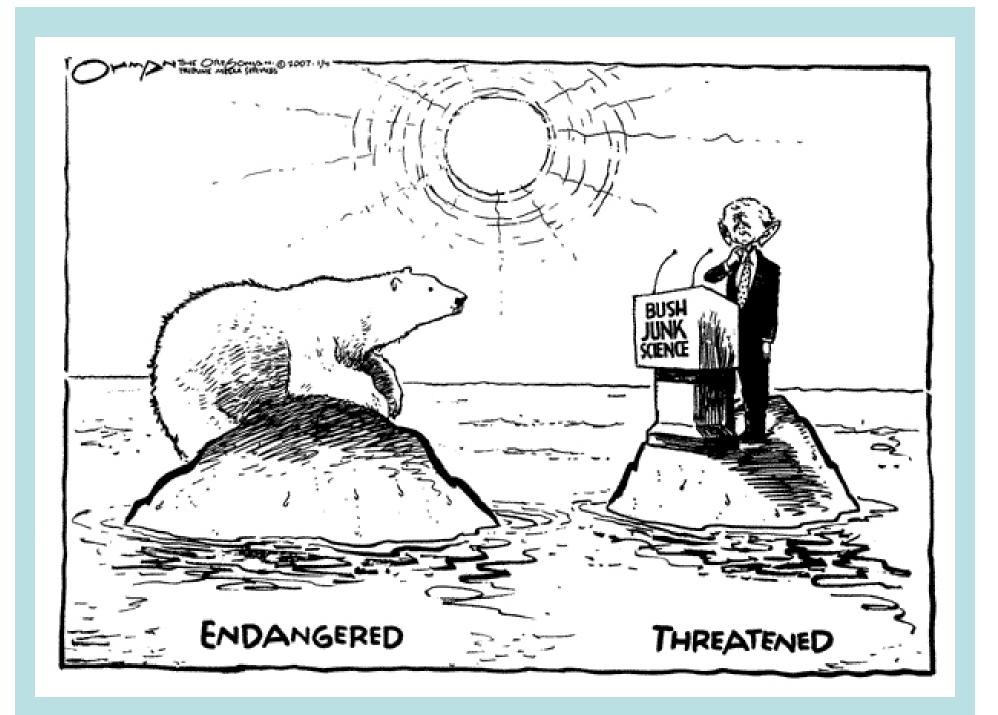
PRESENTATIONAL STYLES



PRESENTATIONAL STYLES







Is the Science "Settled"?

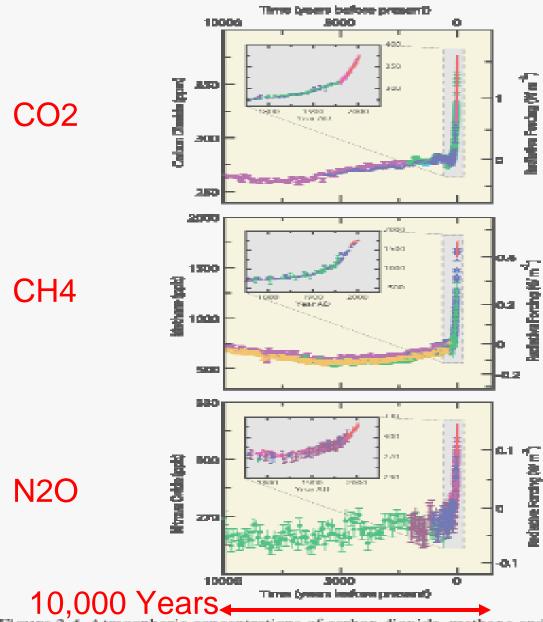
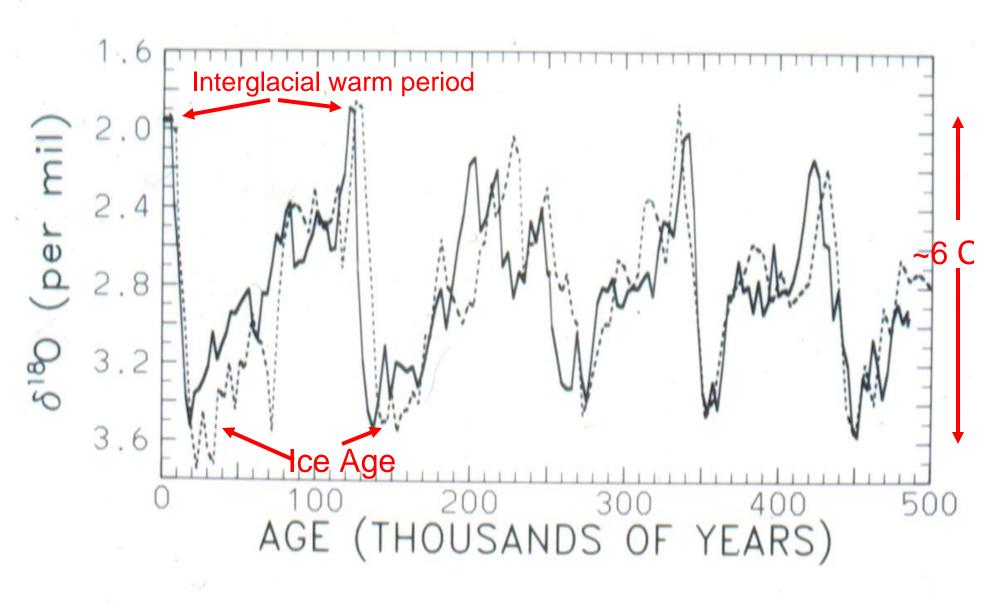
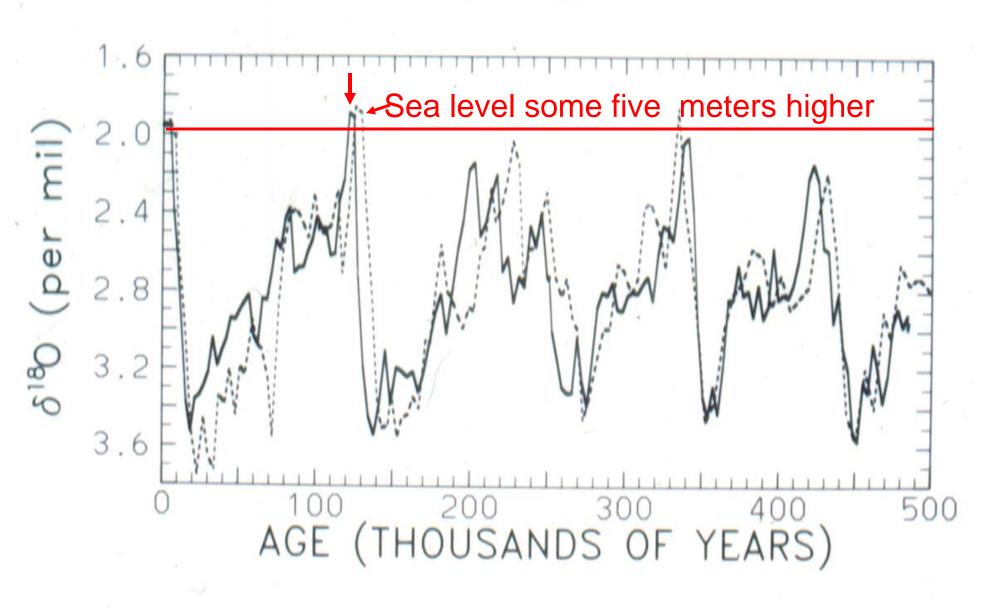


Figure 2, 4, Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide over the last 10,000 years (large panels) and since 1750 (inset panels). Measurements are shown from ice cores (symbols with different colours for different studies) and atmospheric samples (lines). The corresponding radiative forcings are shown on the right hand axes of the large panels. [WGI Figure SPM-1]

TIME SERIES



TIME SERIES



Global Warming is Happening NOW:

"Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global mean sea level (see Figure SPM-3). {3.2, 4.2, 5.5}."

IPCC, Summary for Policymakers, Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report, February, 2007

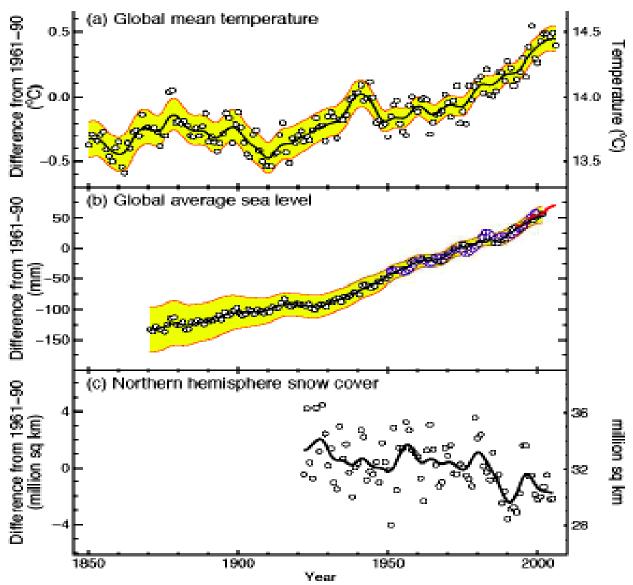


Figure 1.1. Changes in global mean temperature, sea level, and snow cover area. Panel (a) shows global mean temperatures as annual values (open circles) and a smoothed curve (black line) with uncertainty in the smoothed curve shown by the yellow shaded area. Panel (b) shows global mean sea level from tide gauge data (circles) and recent satellite measurements (red line). Panel (c) shows April Northern Hemisphere snow cover area each year (circles) with smoothed values (black line). [WGI Figure SPM-3]

Global and continental temperature change

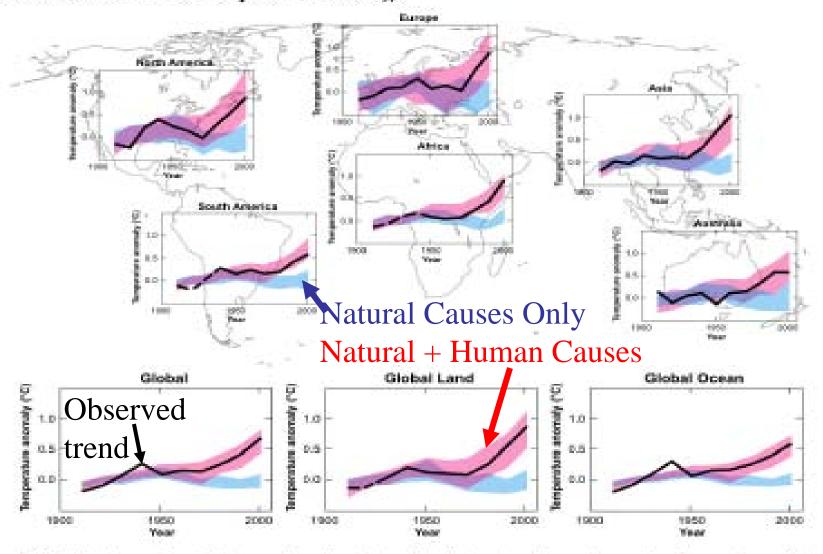


Figure SPM-4. Comparison of observed continental- and global-scale changes in surface temperature with results simulated by climate models using natural and anthropogenic forcings. Decadal averages of observations are shown for the period 1906-2005 (black line) plotted against the centre of the decade and relative to the corresponding average for the 1901–1950. Lines are dashed where spatial coverage is less than 50%. Blue shaded bands show the 5–95% range for 19 simulations from 5 climate models using only the natural forcings due to solar activity and volcanoes. Red shaded bands show the 5–95% range for 58 model simulations from 14 climate models using both natural and anthropogenic forcings. [Figure 2.5]

Munich Re:
"We need to stop this dangerous experiment humankind is conducting on the Earth's atmosphere."

Article 2 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) states that: "The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". The Framework Convention on Climate Change further suggests that "Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient

- to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change,
- to ensure that food production is not threatened and
- to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

"Dangerous" Climate Change

Who decides what is "dangerous" in DAI?

"Dangerous" Climate Change

Who decides what is "dangerous" in DAI?

Many ways to define DAI

Ultimately, not a scientific choice

 Inherent uncertainty in projections of future climate

 Inherent uncertainty in projections of future climate

Best guess → Range

 Inherent uncertainty in projections of future climate

Best guess → Range*

*Climate Sensitivity: 1.5→4.5 C:
Charney Report (1979), IPCC (1996, 2001)

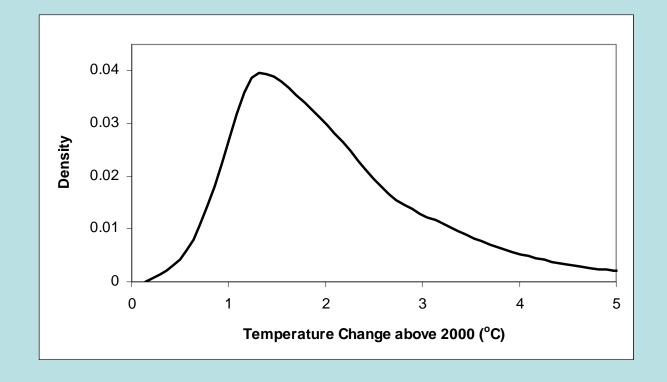
 Inherent uncertainty in projections of future climate

Best guess → Range* → PDFs

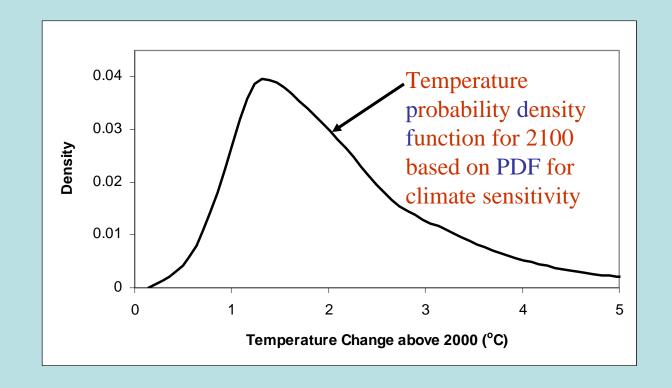
*Climate Sensitivity: 1.5→4.5 C:
Charney Report (1979), IPCC (1996, 2001)











Most sensible decision paradigm?: Risk-management.

Is the Science "Settled"?

*full disclosure

*full disclosure

*be effective

*full disclosure (in 20 second sound bites??!!@#\$??)

*be effective

*full disclosure (in 20 second sound bites??!!@#\$??)

*be effective (need 20 second sound bites!)

CAN WE 'SOLVE" THE "DOUBLE ETHICAL BIND" ?

CAN WE 'SOLVE" THE "DOUBLE ETHICAL BIND" ?

USE METAPHORS THAT CONVEY BOTH URGENCY A N D UNCERTAINTY

The great "greenhouse gamble"...

<1°C (4.1%; 1 in 24 odds)

1 to 1.5°C (11.4%; 1 in 9 odds)

1.5 to 2°C (20.6%; 1 in 5 odds)

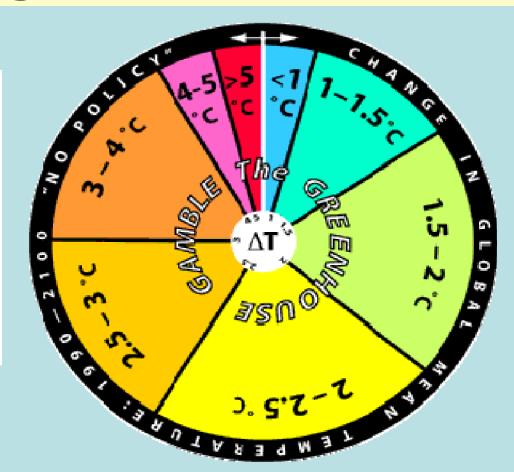
2 to 2.5°C (22.5%; 1 in 4 odds)

2.5 to 3°C (16.8%; 1 in 6 odds)

3 to 4°C (16.2%; 1 in 6 odds)

4 to 5°C (4.6%; 1 in 22 odds)

>5°C (3.8%; 1 in 26 odds)



Source: MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Climate Change

To Help Ensure Credibility (in Writing)*

- Hierarchy of backup products:
 - Op-ed pieces
 - Longer popular articles
 - Books
 - *Explain how your views were modified with new evidence

To Help Ensure Credibility (in Speaking)

- Hierarchy of backup products:
 - 15 second sound bites
 - 1 minute explanation
 - 10 minute talk
 - 50 minute lecture (sometimes more for some of us!)

SCHNEIDER'S "THREE COMMANDMENTS" OF COMMUNICATION:

Know thy audience!

SCHNEIDER'S "THREE COMMANDMENTS" OF COMMUNICATION:

Know thy audience! Know thy self!

SCHNEIDER'S "THREE COMMANDMENTS" OF COMMUNICATION:

Know thy audience!
Know thy self!
Know thy stuff!

IMPACTS: A Brief Litany

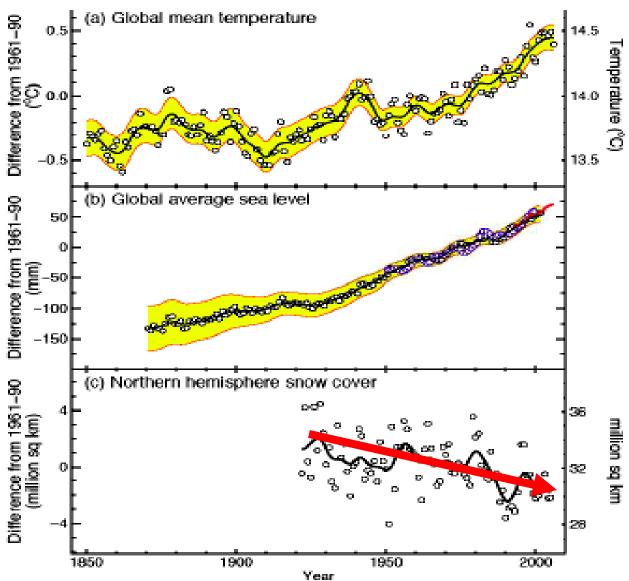


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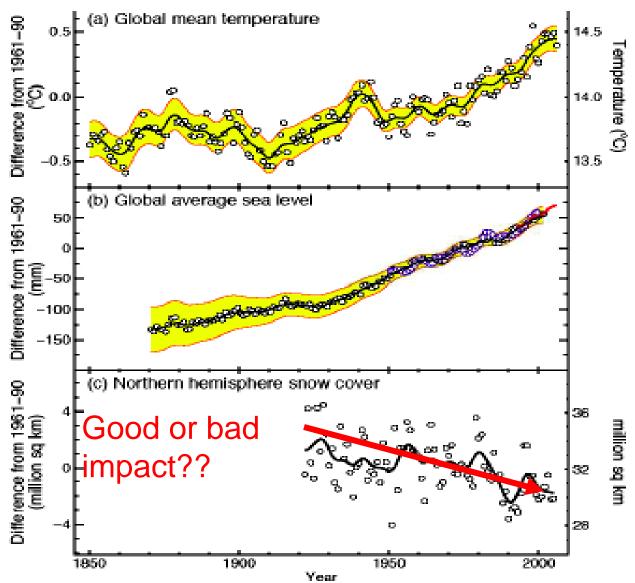
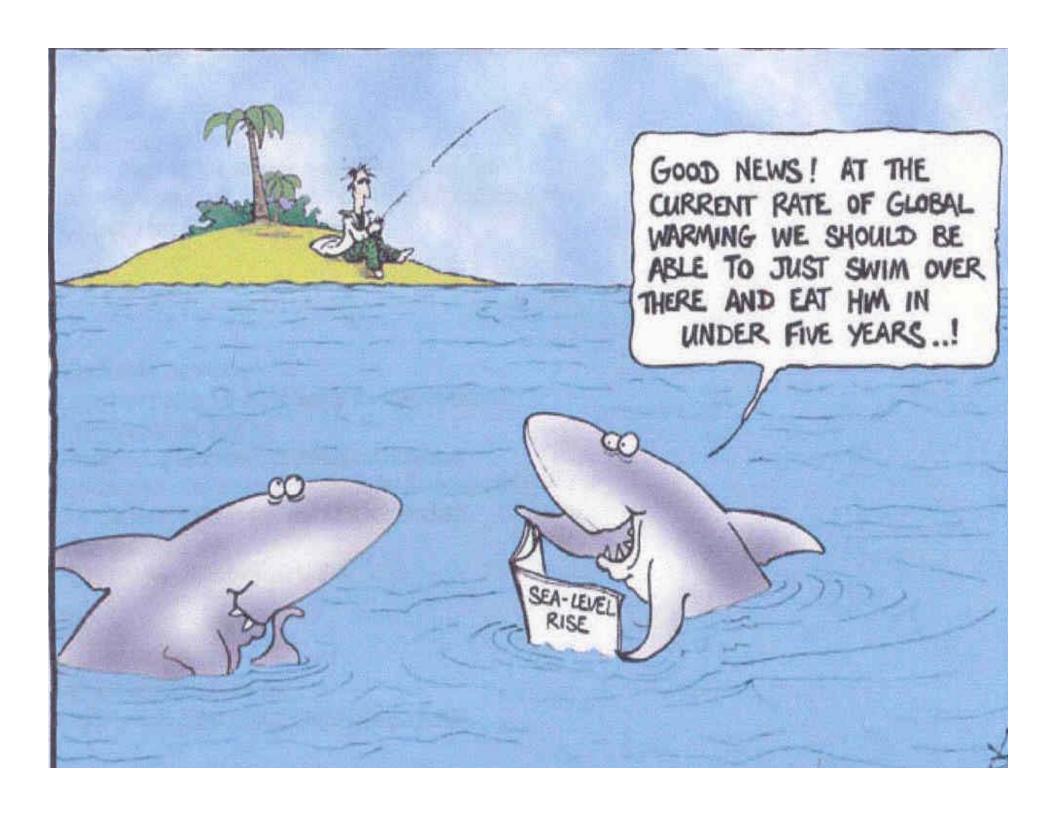


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Inuit to file anti-U.S. climate petition Wed Jun 15, 2005 11:09 AM

OSLO (Reuters) - Inuit hunters threatened by a melting of the Arctic ice plan to file a petition accusing Washington of violating their human rights by fueling global warming, an Inuit leader said Wednesday.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), also said Washington was hindering work to follow up a 2004 report by 250 scientists that said the thaw could make the Arctic Ocean ice-free in summer by 2100.

Watt-Cloutier, in Oslo to receive an environmental prize, said the inuits' planned petition to the 34-member Organization of American States (OAS) could put pressure on the United States to do more to cut industrial emissions of heat-trapping gases.

"It's still in the works, the drafting is still going on," she said of a

"It's still in the works, the drafting is still going on," she said of a long-planned petition to the OAS' human rights arm, the Inter-

American Commission on Human Rights.

PAGE ONE

The Ukukus Wonder Why a Sacred Glacier Melts in Peru's Andes

It Could Portend World's End, So Mountain Worshipers Are Stewarding the Ice

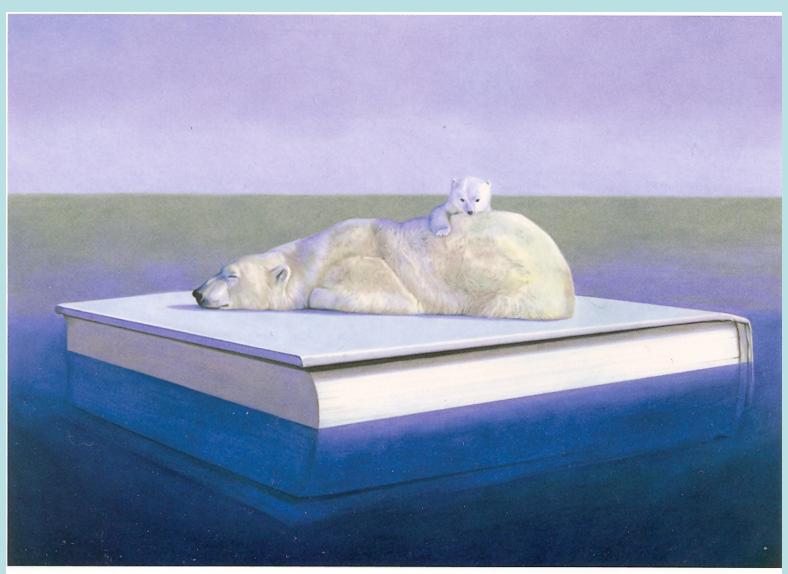
By ANTONIO REGALADO Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL June 17, 2005; Page A1



Vicente Revilla/BMCC-CUNY

An ukuku hauls a block of mountain ice near Cuzco, Peru, in 1999. The tradition is disappearing along with Peru's glaciers.

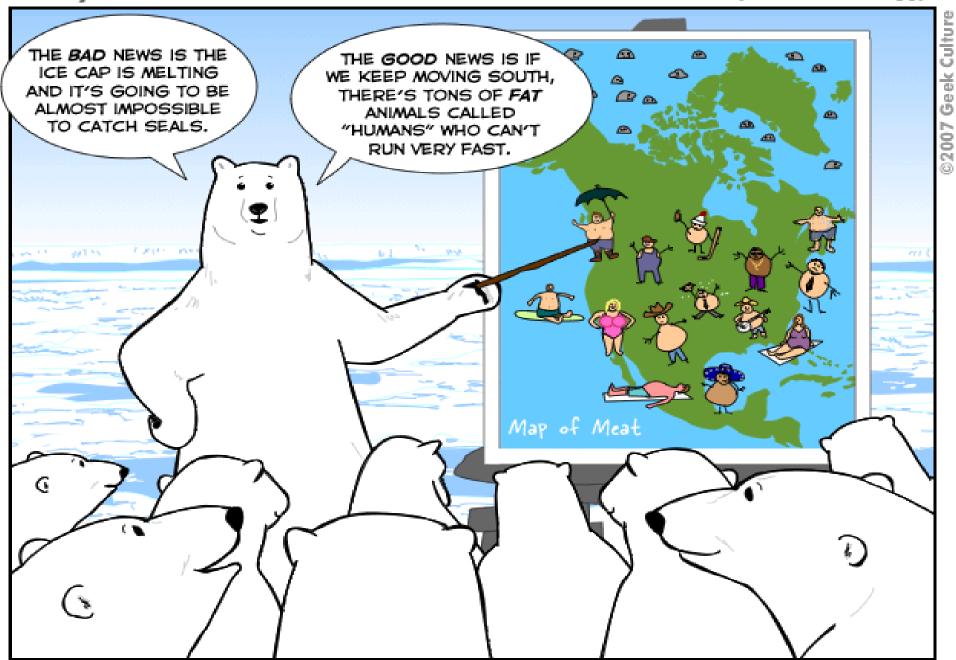




"PASSAGE 2" DON SIMON 2006







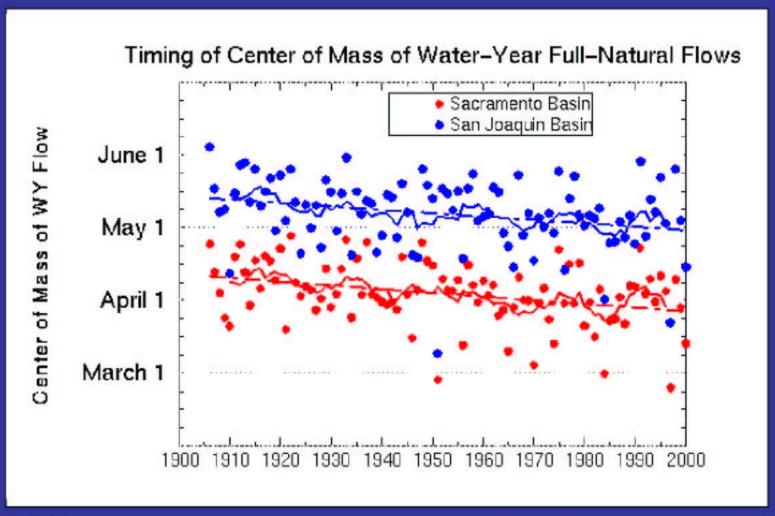
joyoftech.com



Governor of California: 80% reduction in emissions by 2050

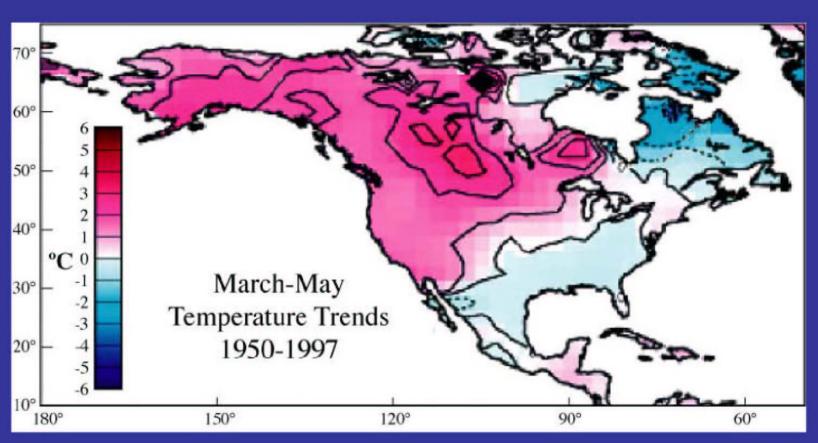
Motivating Issues For A Sustainability Agenda For California on Climate Change

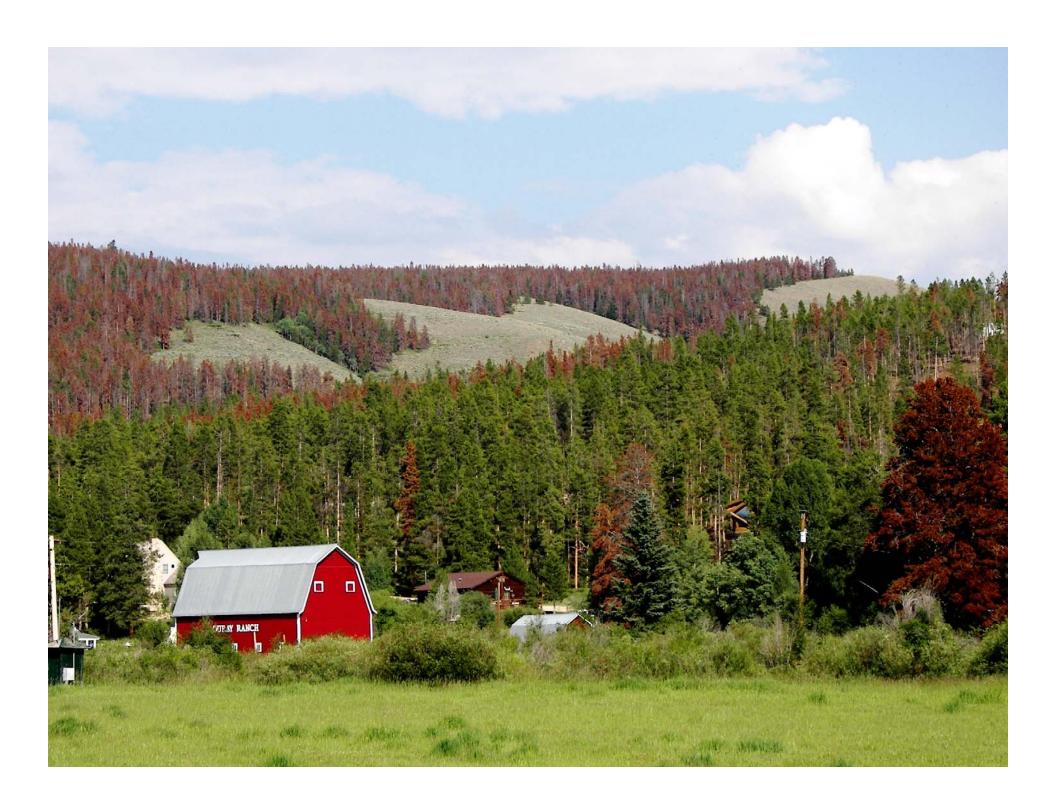
In California, this trend is widespread in the Sierra Nevada, and has yielded flows that are about 2 weeks earlier now.





Not surprisingly, these timing and snowpack changes are attributable to long-term winter-spring warming trends across the West.





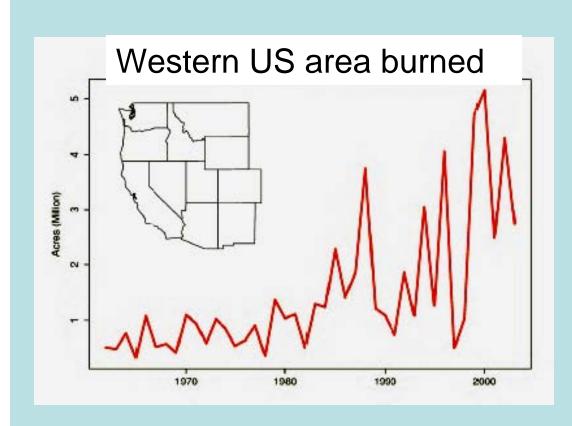
"Very High Confidence" Global Warming Impacts

- North American Impacts Projected (cont'd)
 - Fire & Pest Impacts: "Disturbances from pests, diseases, and fire are projected to have increasing impacts on forests, with an extended period of high fire risk and large increases in area burned."

IPCC, Summary for Policymakers, Working Group II Contribution to the Fourth Assessment Report, April, 2007



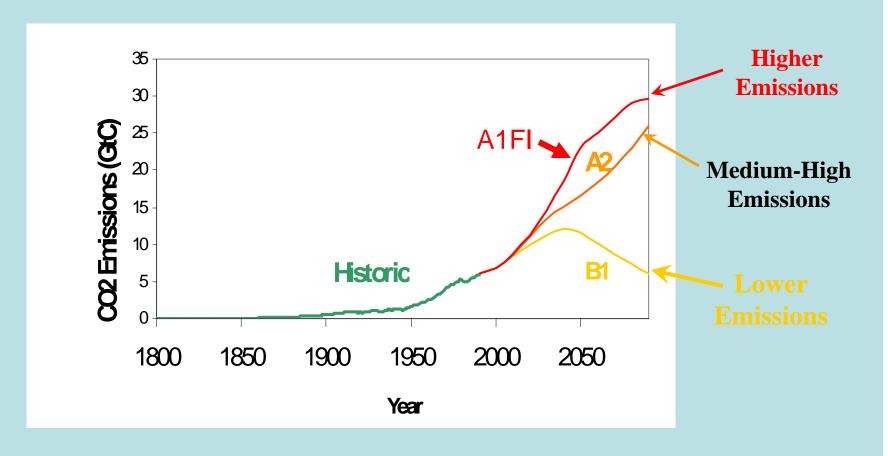
Wildfires Frequency increased four fold in last 30 years.



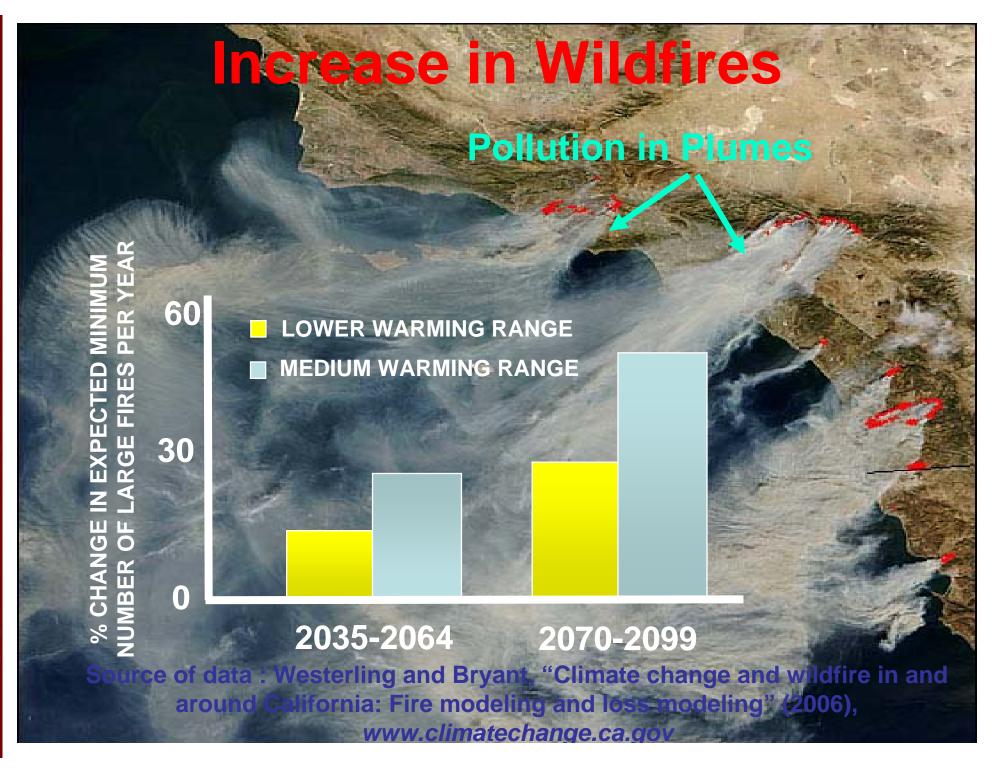
Source: Westerling et al. 2006

We can Choose our Emissions Future

(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Emission Scenarios)

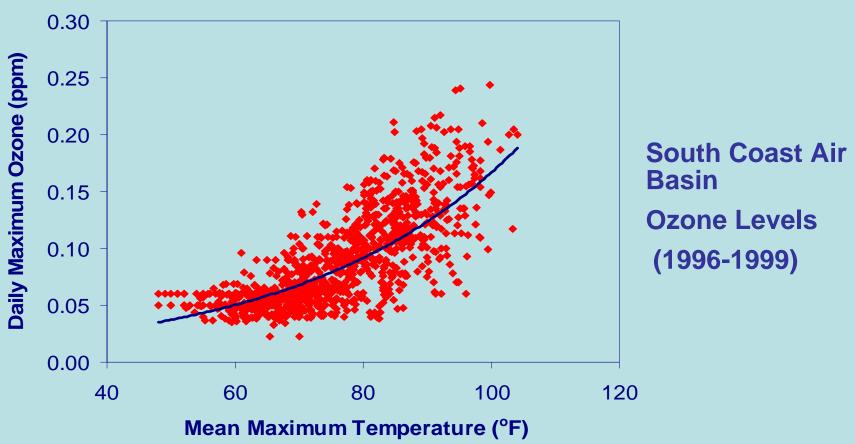


Just fossil fuel emissions shown in graphic.



Extraordinary & Compelling Conditions

Hotter Days Lead to More Smog

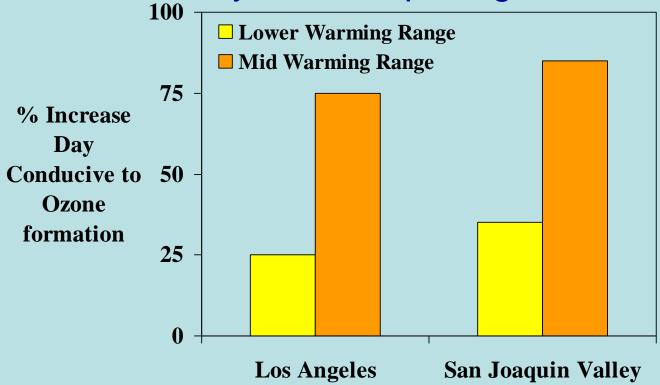


Our Changing Climate: Assessing the Risks to California (2006),

www.climatechange.ca.gov. Source: Air Resources Board, 2000

Extraordinary & Compelling Conditions

More Smog Likely: Section 209(b) clearly covers this extraordinary and compelling condition

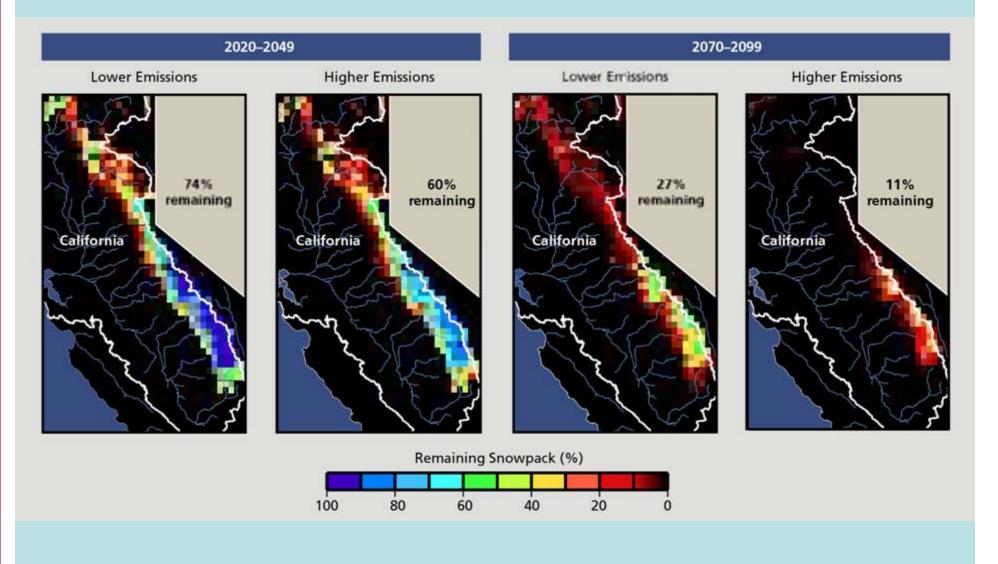


Our Changing Climate: Assessing the Risks to California (2006), www.climatechange.ca.gov

Data from GFDL B1 and A2 runs. SOURCE: Kleeman et al. 2006

Diminishing Sierra Snowpack

% Remaining, Relative to 1961-1990



Decreasing Wine Grape Quality Temperature Impacts

2070-2099 Higher Lower **Emissions Emissions** (B1) **Impaired Wine Country Optimal** Marginal Impared **Impaired** (mid) **Optimal Optimal Optimal Optimal** Cool **Impaired** (mid-high) Coastal (mid-high) (high) (low) Northern Marginal **Impaired** Impaired Impaired **Impaired**

Wine Country (Sonoma, Napa Counties)
Cool Coastal (Mendocino, Monterey Counties)
Northern Central Valley (San Joaquin, Sacramento Counties)

Central Valley

WHAT ARE THE FUTURE IMPLICATIONS OF POPULATION, AFFFLUENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GROWTH PROJECTIONS?

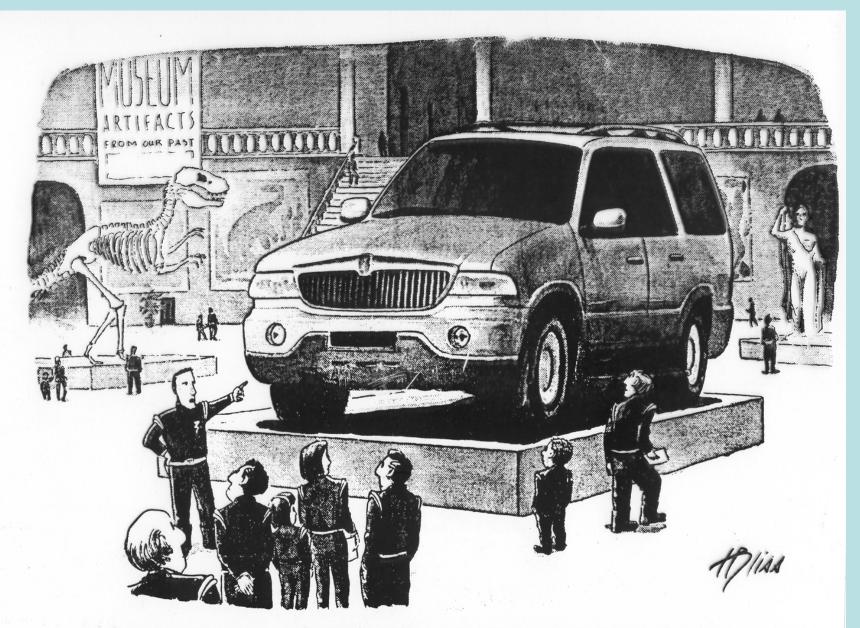
CAN THE FUTURE BE SCIENTIFICALLY ANALYSED?

IOSTRADAMUS PRED CTS OTTEST STORY



FAMOUS seer Nostradamus wrote a clear and specific paem that reveals the barrers of our upcoming weather.





"We're not certain why they disappeared, but archeologists speculate that it may have had something to do with their size."

Large Vehicles Are the Solution, Not the Problem

You're safer in a sport utility vehicle.

By Sam Kazman

If you listen to journalists, you'd think sport-utility vehicles were more dangerous han Saddam Hussein. SUVs supposedly leplete the Earth's resources, poison its atmosphere and encourage rude driving. Vorst of all, because of their size they alegedly pose a grave collision threat to just about anyone who ventures outdoors. According to a recent New York Times report, the worst safety hazard is yet to come—once these "expensive toys" depresiate and are sold by the "responsible family people" who now drive them, they'll be bought by teenagers who'll handle them even more recklessly.

These threats have been wildly overstated. And the solution proposed by many SUV critics, raising the federal fuel economy standards, would mean expanding a regulatory program that has already aused thousands of traffic deaths.

The federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards, enacted in the wake of the mid-1970s oil shocks, require each auto maker's annual output of new cars to meet a set fuel economy level. The current passenger-car CAFE standard is 27.5 miles per gallon; for light trucks, the standard is a more lenient 20.7 mpg.

The easiest way for car makers to meet ever-rising CAFE standards has been through continued car downsizing. As the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration itself noted, "weight reduction is probably the most powerful technique for improving fuel economy. . . . Each 10 percent reduction in weight improves the fuel economy of a new vehicle design by approximately 8 percent." The result was a CAFE-driven downsizing of approximately 500 pounds per car.

Smaller cars, however, are less crashworthy than similarly equipped large cars in practically every type of accident. According to a 1989 Harvard-Brookings study, CAFE-induced downsizing has increased car occupant fatalities by between 14% and 27%; that translates to between 2,000 and 4,000 extra deaths a year.

You'd think that NHTSA, an agency whose middle name is safety, would have brought this issue to the forefront of public attention. But instead NHTSA has repeatedly claimed that CAFE has no safety effect. In a 1992 court case brought by the Competitive Enterprise Institute and Consumer Alert, a panel of federal appeals

judges blasted NHTSA's position as "fudged analysis," "statistical legerdemain" and "bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo."

If CAFE had been a privately produced product, it would long ago have been recalled as defective and its producer, NHTSA, jailed for the coverup. But because

CAFE is a product of Washington rather than Detroit, it remains in place; worse yet, it threatens to expand in the face of the SUV "threat."

The overblown nature of that threat is demonstrated by a study issued last month by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Journalists widely reported the study as re-emphasizing the need for action against SUVs, but its findings indicate otherwise. What the institute found was that collisions between ears and SUVs account for only 4% of car occupant fatalities.

Cars are most vulnerable in side impact collisions. According to the institute, in fatal collisions involving cars that are hit on the side by SUVs, the relative risk that the death will be in the car rather than the SUV is an apparently lopsided 27-to-1. But when this relative risk is broken down by car weight categories, it turns out that car-SUV mismatches are frequently outweighed by other common collision disparities. For example, the occupants of a light car struck in the side by a heavy car

face a greater relative risk of death than when a heavy car is side-impacted by an SUV. That is, there is a greater mismatch between light cars and heavy cars than there is between heavy cars and SUVs.

What this means is that upsizing the car fleet may well be the most important step we could take toward improving safety. But upsizing, of course, is what CAFE currently restricts.

The same conclusion emerges from a 1997 NHTSA study, which was similarly char-

acterized as indicting SUVs but which turns out, on closer analysis, to indict CAFE. A NHTSA press release touted the study's finding that a 100-pound decrease in SUV weight would

prevent 40 fatalities per year, most of them in cars coiliding with SUVs. But according to the study itself, this conclusion was not statistically significant; there might even be a net loss of life from such downsizing, and on balance the overall effect would be "negtigible." More important, those minimal effects paled in comparison to the effects of a 100-pound increase in passenger car weight—a saving of over 300 lives a year. And the effect of this passenger car unsizing was found to be statistically significant, unlike the SUV downsizing.

Upsizing, however, would entail relaxing CAFE rather than tightening it—a move that would be totally alien to this administration and to its environmentalist supporters. The Sierra Club, for example, claims that higher CAFE standards would be "the biggest single step to curbing global warming." In their 1992 campaign book, Bill Clinton and Al Gore recommended raising CAFE to 40 mpg by 2000—a. level whose potential safety consequences add more than a little irony to the book's title, "Putting People First."

SUV critics argue, to use Consumer Reports' words, that "most people who buy an SUV don't need one." But what one person doesn't need is largely a matter of another person's opinion. In the early 1800s the Duke of Wellington complained that the new railroads would "only encourage the common people to move about needlessly." Today the elitist view is that the

he bought it for safety, to distinguish him self from "some teenager" trying "to b cool." Too bad his regulatory approact doesn't do much for other people's safety

In fact, much of the SUVs' recent popularity stems from CAFE itself. CAFE's restrictions took their greatest toll on larg cars and station wagons. As economis Paul Godek pointed out in a study put lished last fall, light trucks were the onl real alternative for consumers concerne about safety and seating capacity. In effect, he concludes, most of the weigh forced off the passenger car fleet by CAF has reappeared in the light truck fleet.

So the real problem is CAFE, not SUV: The next time you hear the term SUV, re member: The "S" might as well stand fo scapegoat.

Mr. Kazman is general counsel of the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington.

March 12,1992

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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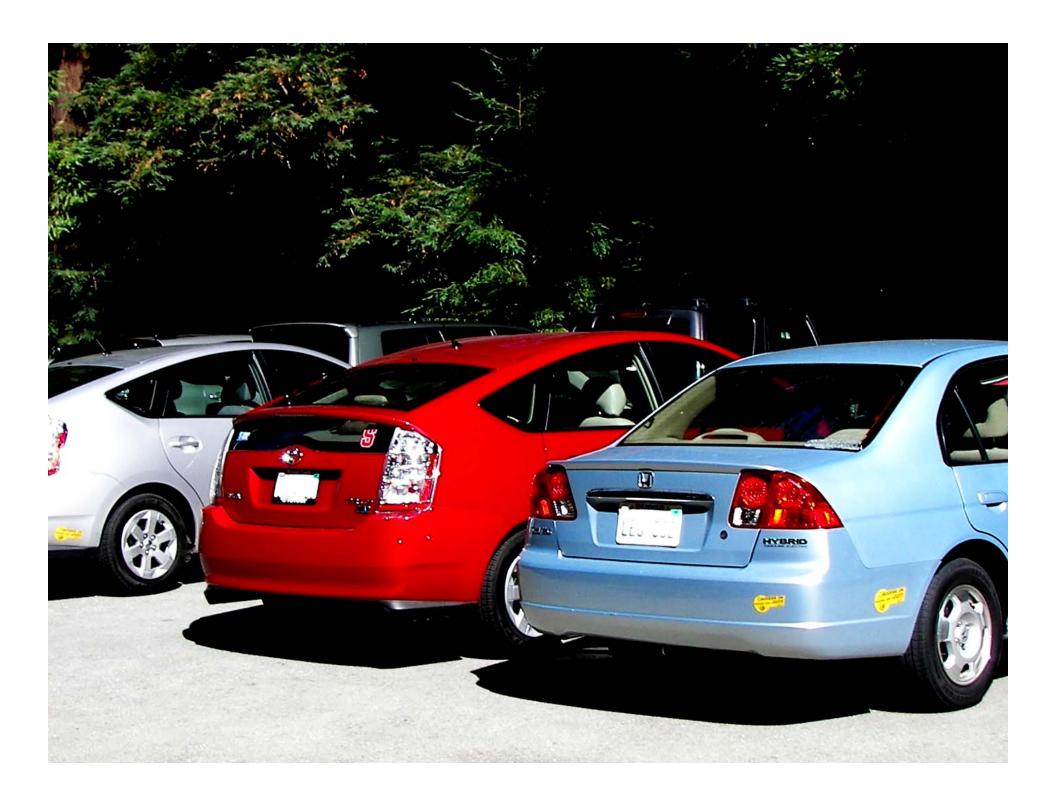
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'The words of the prophet are written on the...?'



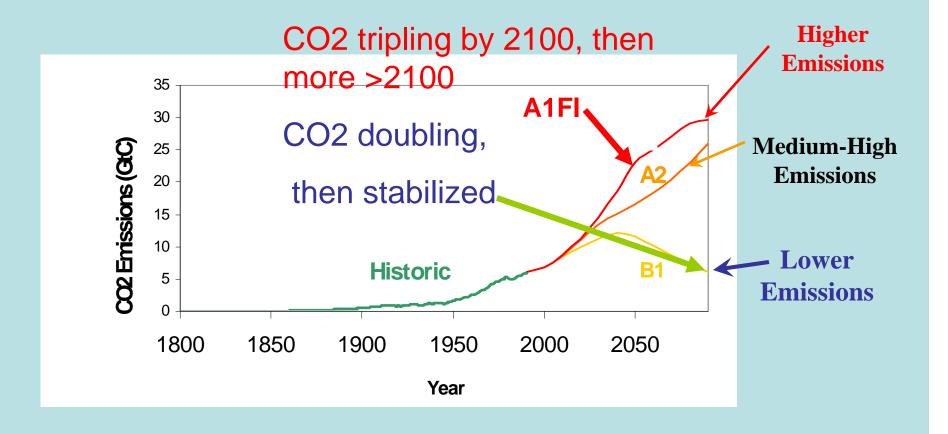
Cars on a diet!





We can Choose our Emissions Future

(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Emission Scenarios)



Just fossil fuel emissions shown in graphic.

Projected patterns of precipitation changes Any Robust Conclusions?

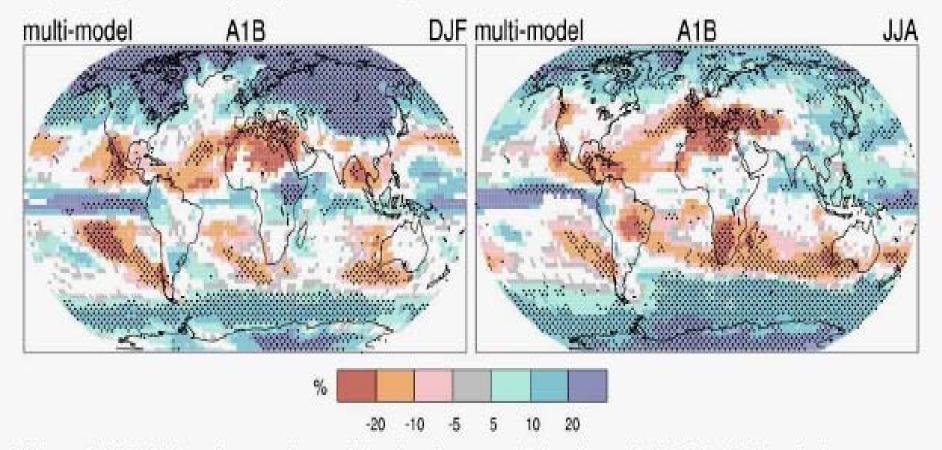


Figure 3.3. Relative changes in precipitation (in percent) for the period 2090–2099, relative to 1980–1999. Values are multi-model averages based on the SRES A1B scenario for December to February (left) and June to August (right). White areas are where less than 66% of the models agree in the sign of the change and stippled areas are where more than 90% of the models agree in the sign of the change. [WGI Figure 10.9]

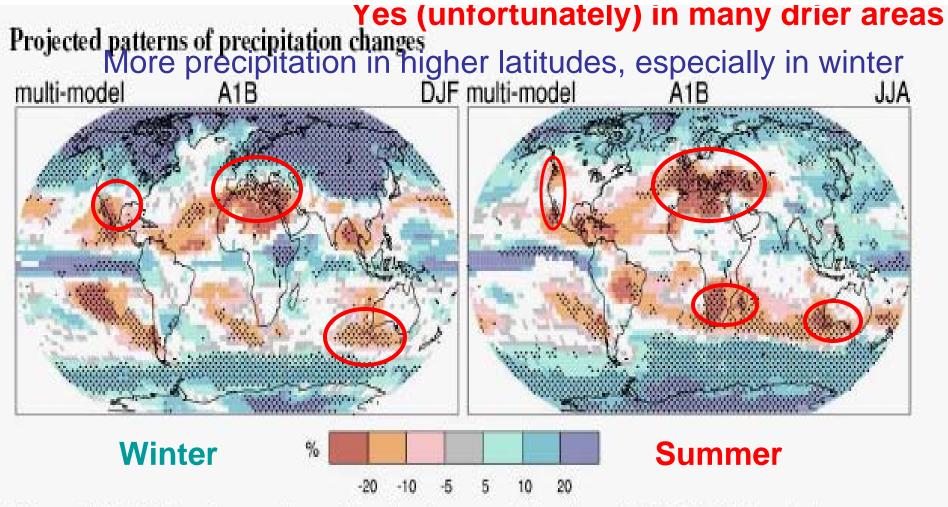
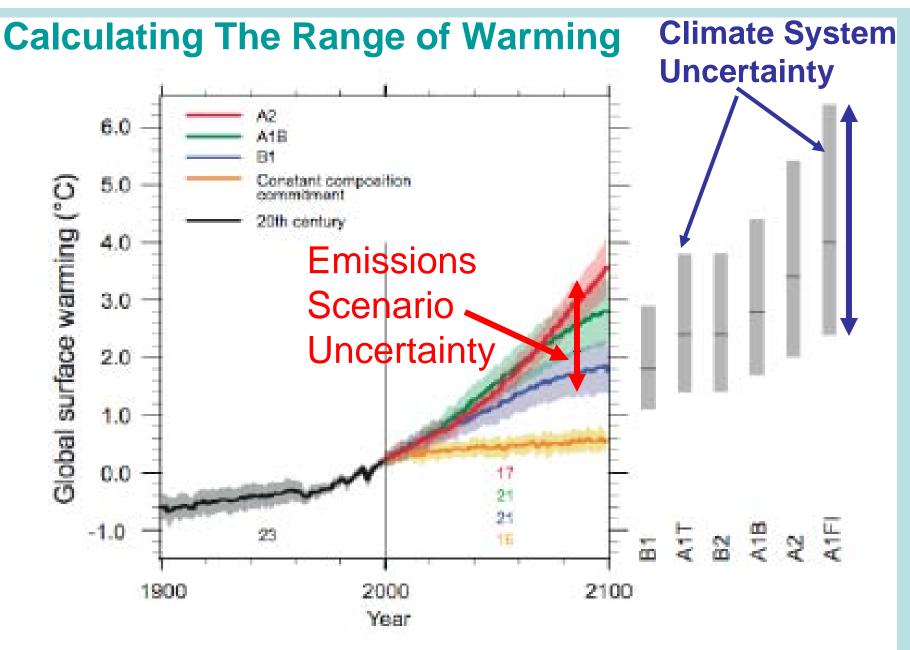


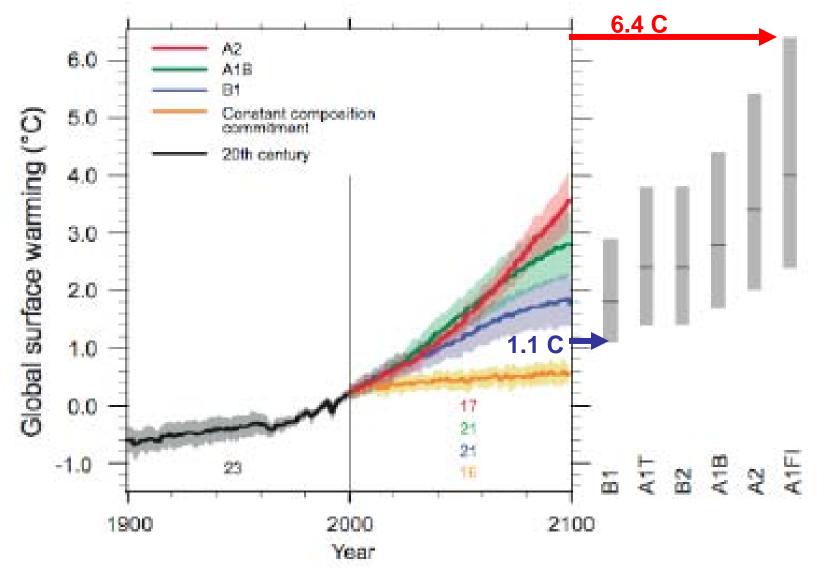
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Source: IPCC, WG 1, AR4, 2007

Is The Science "Settled"?

Warming Very Likely—But How Much?: Wide Range



Source: IPCC, WG 1, AR4, 2007

Risk = Probability* x Consequence [What metrics** of harm?]

-\$/ton C avoided
-lives lost/ton C avoided
-species lost/ton C avoided
-increased inequity/ton C avoided
-quality of life degraded/ton

*Subjective probability density functions

**Any weights on each metric are normative

PARADIGMATIC DILEMMA (All language is from IPCC SPMs):

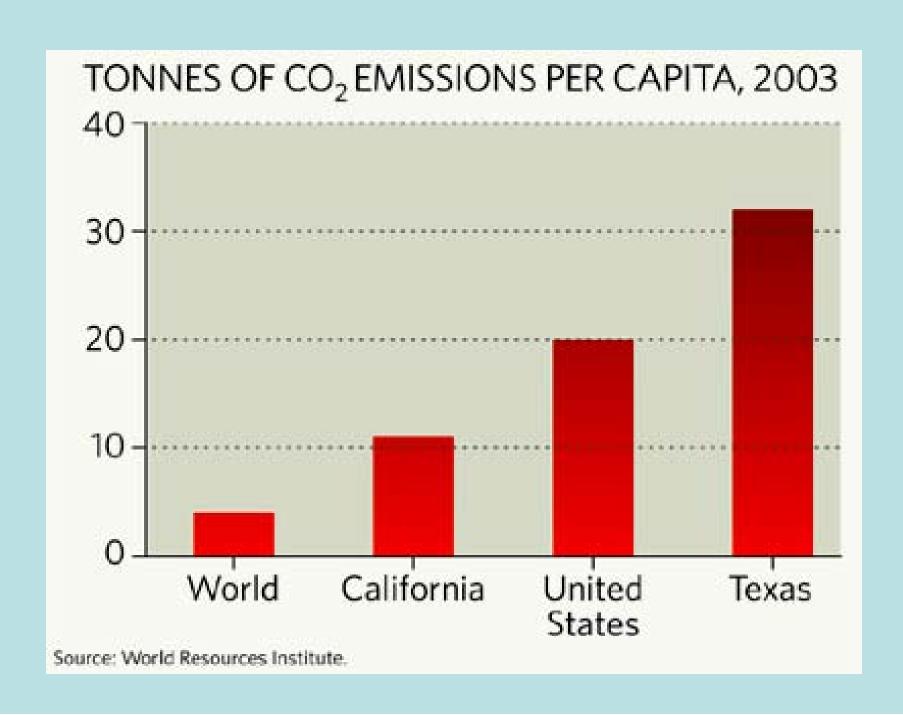
Risk management framework emerges as a useful framework to address key vulnerabilities.

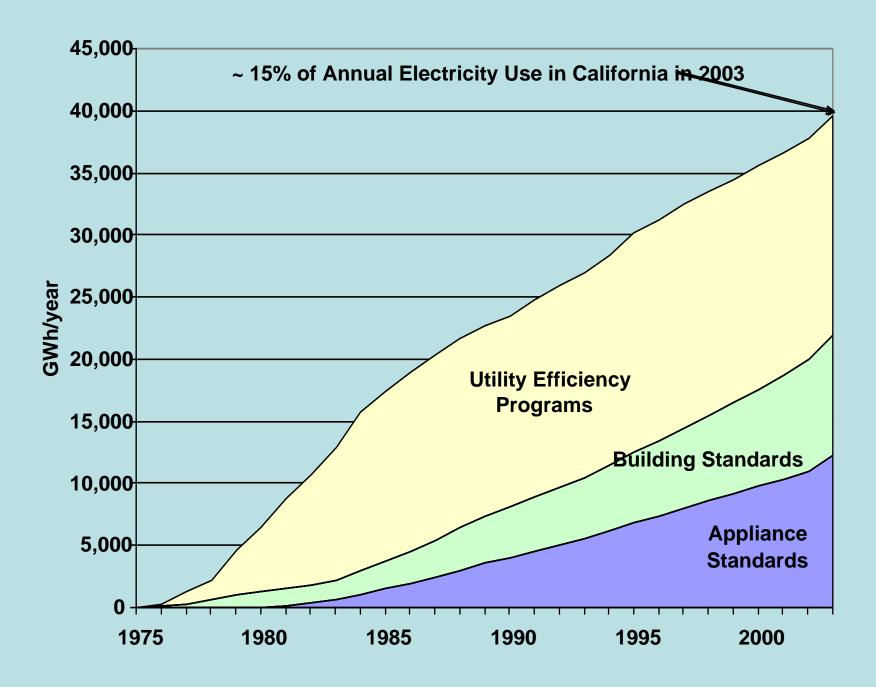
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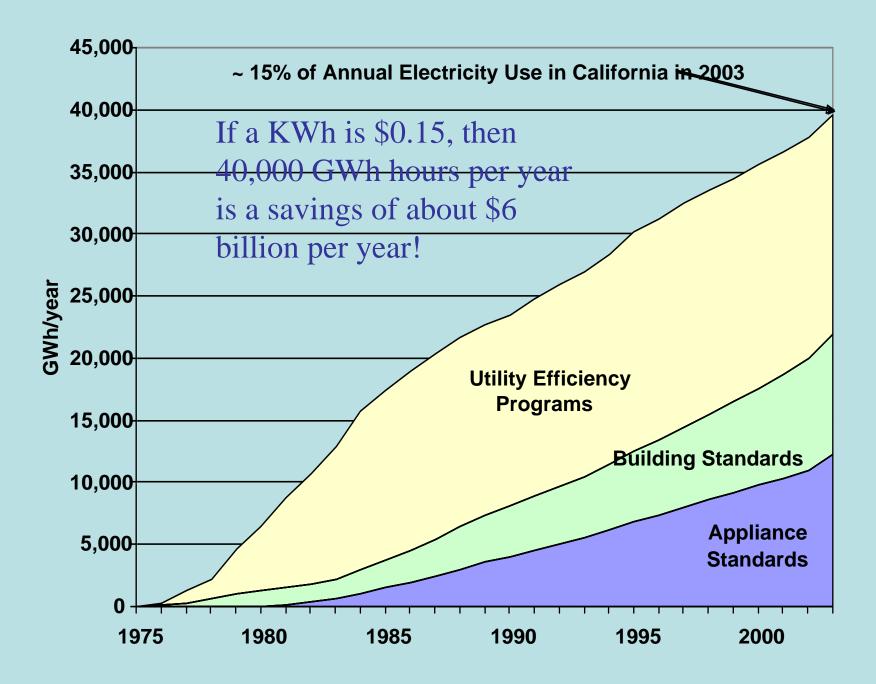
Risk management framework emerges as a useful framework to address key vulnerabilities.

"versus"

However, the assignment of probabilities to specific key impacts is often very difficult due to the large uncertainties involved.

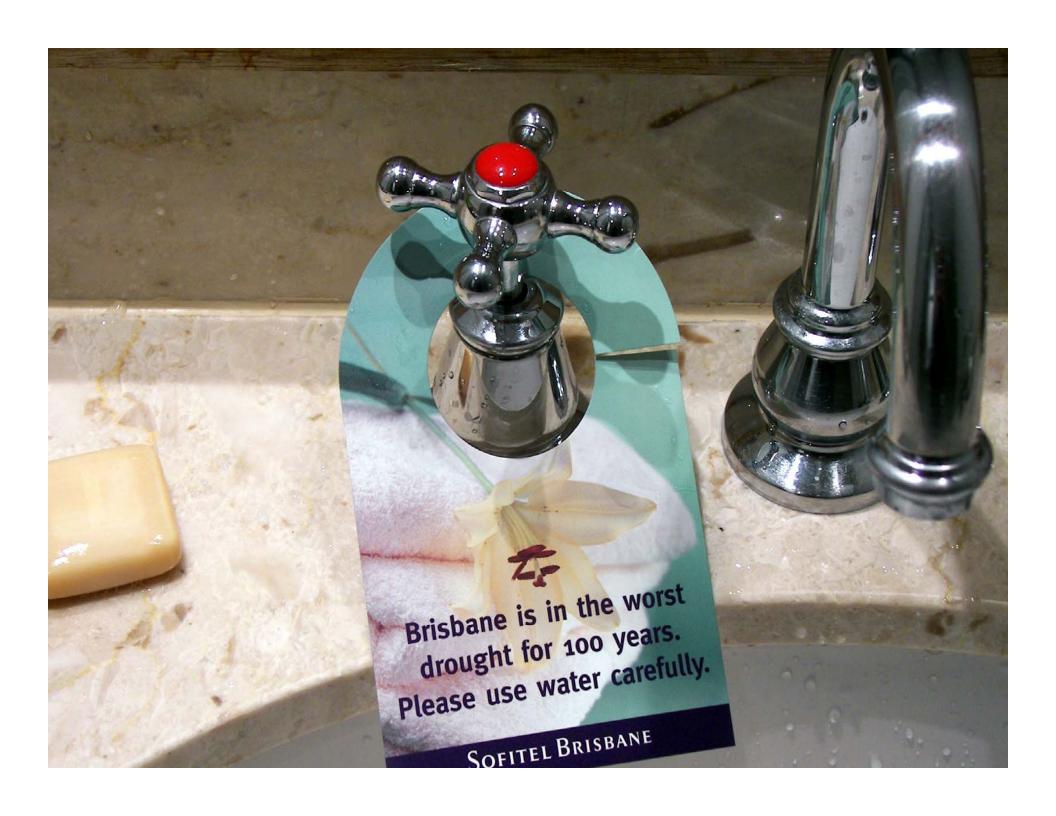






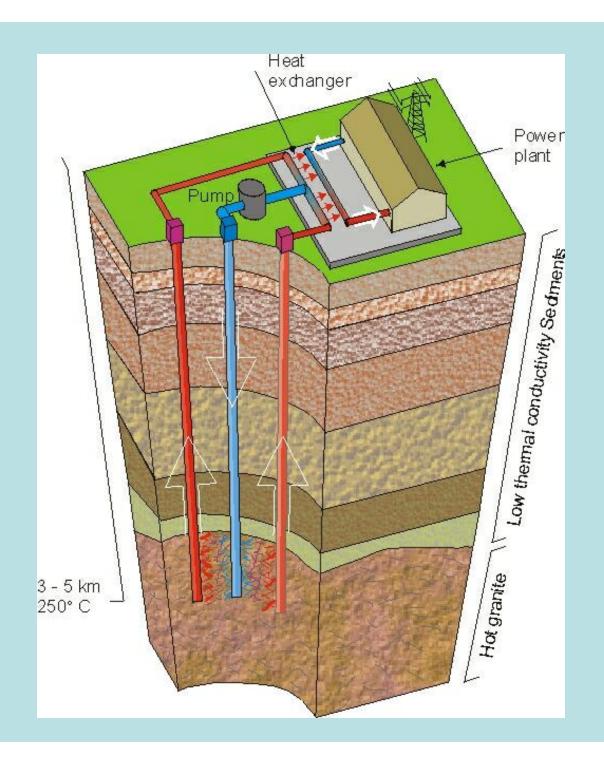
Methods to achieve announced climate sustainability goals?

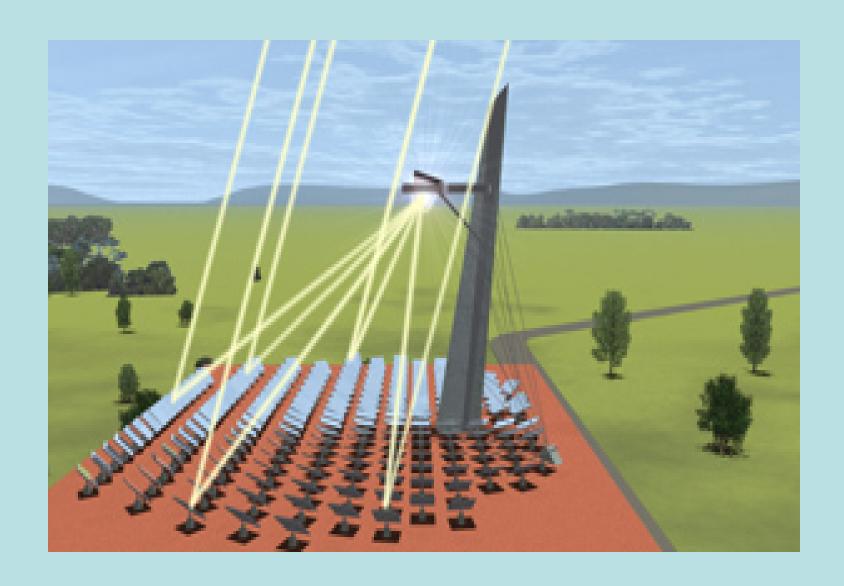
Volunteerism

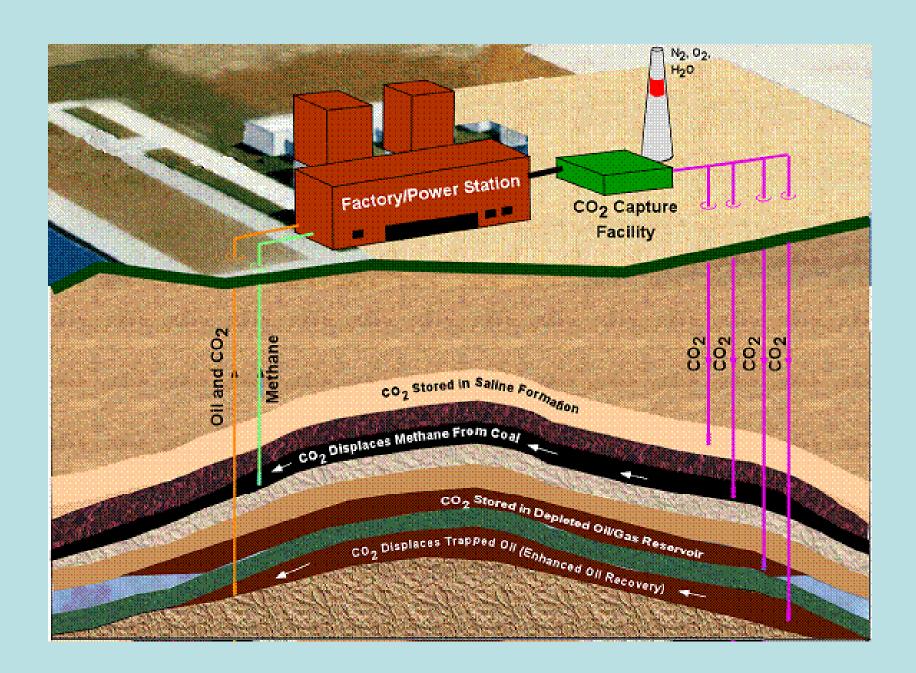


Methods to achieve announced climate sustainability goals?

- Volunteerism
- Technology, R,D & D subsidies









• Start smart

- Start smart
- Do well by doing good

- Start smart
- Do well by doing good
- Stress the win-wins

- Start smart
- Do well by doing good
- Stress the win-wins
- Just transitions for those negatively affected

- Start smart
- Do well by doing good
- Stress the win-wins
- Just transitions for those negatively affected
- Advanced notice

- Start smart
- Do well by doing good
- Stress the win-wins
- Just transitions for those negatively affected
- Advanced notice
- Inexorability

- Start smart
- Do well by doing good
- Stress the win-wins
- Just transitions for those negatively affected
- Advanced notice
- Inexorability
- Rewards for early adaptors

Questions?

Comments??